



August 2000

# VOTING INFORMATION NEWS

Vol. 10 No. 8

A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) ☒ For voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.



## Celebrate Armed Forces Voters Week September 3 - 9, 2000

(AFVW). This week is the last really safe week to submit a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), SF-76, request for registration and /or an absentee ballot which meets most state deadlines (always refer to the 2000-2001 Voting Assistance Guide for state deadlines).

### **AFVW GOAL: 100% contact and IN-HAND delivery of FPCAs to all personnel!**

As a Voting Assistance Officer (VAO) it is your job to provide voting assistance and support. You are also tasked with disseminating accurate, nonpartisan voting information. So, how do you plan to celebrate this week?

We suggest that you use this week to begin wrapping up your 2000 voting assistance program. Conduct final voting workshops and registration drives (don't forget to include all eligible family members). We realize that for most of you, being a VAO is an additional duty and that

you don't have much time to dedicate to your program. Just try to keep the week's

activities simple and fun. We even suggest that you join together with other voting officers and/or enlist the help of other "on base" organizations, such as wives clubs, family services, boy/girl scouts and other groups to help get out the vote and coordinate voter outreach events.

During these events, emphasize the importance of requesting registration and a ballot as soon as possible. It is also a good opportunity to remind them to always return their voted ballots as soon as possible to allow sufficient transit time back to their local election official.

Installation newspapers and other internal media, including closed-circuit television and Armed Forces Radio and Television (See **AFVW** on page 4)



With the November 2000 General Election almost upon us, and registration deadlines even sooner, time is running out for citizens who want to participate in the elections this year. This is why the Secretary of Defense decreed the week of September 3-9, 2000 as Armed Forces Voters Week



## COPIES AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION:

### *Communicating With Your Elected Officials:*

#### **106th Congress & State Governors 1999-2000 pamphlet**

Provided by the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP), the *Communicating With Your Elected Officials* pamphlet is a valuable resource for citizens. It provides citizens with contact information for many of their Federal and State elected officials as well as a brief review of the electoral system in our country.

The pamphlet supplies the names of all members of the 106th Congress and State Governors, as well as information on how to contact them by mail, telephone, fax and e-mail, (where available). It is designed in an easy to follow format and is approximately 30 pages long. Its size allows it to fit into a regular business-size envelope for easy mail distribution. A .pdf version of the pamphlet is available at the FVAP Website **www.fvap.ncr.gov**.

Copies of the pamphlet can be requested directly from the FVAP (contact information on page 2). In your request, please indicate the name and address of your organization, a contact person, telephone and fax numbers, e-

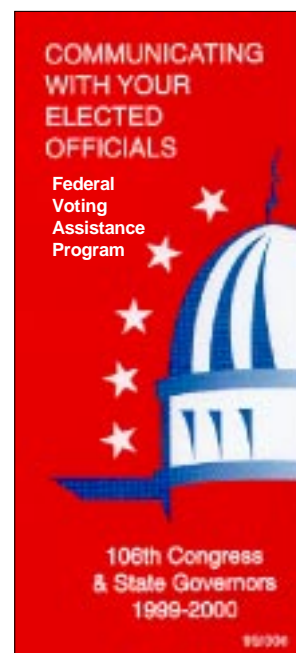
mail address and the quantity of pamphlets needed.

We believe that the pamphlet is a great way to encourage citizens to keep abreast of electoral issues and to communicate with their elected officials. Give them a personal copy.

So don't miss out, request your copies today! Only a limited number remain. ☒

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**Local Election Officials - Overseas Address Alert!****Make sure that it gets there on time!**

The mailing of election materials is an essential aspect of the absentee voting process. The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) covers the voting rights of members of the Uniformed Services and the merchant marine, their eligible family members and all U.S. citizens residing outside the United States. Most of these citizens reside on military installations and/or overseas. Although absentee voting procedures vary from state to state, usually some aspect of the process requires the use of the postal system.

The possible address dilemma. Postal systems and address formats are not uniform around the world and many military and overseas addresses simply look different. They may not necessarily read: name, street, city, state and zip code (this may be due to geographic location or security measures). Some even use abbreviations, such as a APO or FPO number (in place of a zip code) with Base or Installation names being omitted (It is not uncommon for a military address to be a box number and an APO or FPO number).

This is why we feel that it is important to alert Local Election Officials of the variances in address formats (diverse looking addresses). Our advice to the Local Election Officials: Ensure that you correctly duplicate the citizens address from the absentee ballot request, no matter how unusual it may look. It may not look like a normal address, but the foreign country's mail officials will understand the format and direct it in the proper destination.

Pass this tip along. It may help expedite election materials as they pass through the mails. A return address should always be supplied. ☑

**Important Message About Faxing Election Materials**

When utilizing the Electronic Transmission Service (Faxing), please provide your complete fax number including all international prefixes, country or city codes (Commercial fax numbers only - no DSN). This will allow the Local Election Official to get in touch with you if they need additional information. Appendix C of the 2000-01 Voting Assistance Guide provides further information and instructions for using the Electronic Transmission Service. PLEASE NOTE: After faxing, mail the original hard copy to your state. ☑

**Voting Assistance Officers****"To Do" This Month**

[ ] Plan to celebrate Armed Forces Voters Week, September 3-9, 2000 (see article on page 1). Get the whole community involved and aim for 100% contact. Make in-hand distribution to as many citizens as possible (August 15th if you are outside the United States (OCONUS) and September 15 if you are stateside (CONUS))

[ ] Use the local resources available to you to help get the word out about voting. Post voting and election information, including this newsletter and the voting news releases on bulletin boards and in unit/installation/ship newspapers to ensure that everyone receives election information in a timely manner. Hanging motivational posters is also a great way to advertise the voting program.

[ ] Take an inventory to ensure you have adequate supplies of the absentee voting materials (make sure that you have an ample supply of Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB, SF-186)

[ ] Ensure that people know how to get in touch with you for voting assistance. Provide the installation or Embassy/Consulate telephone operator your name and contact information to refer callers requiring voting assistance. Make sure that you have do not forget to assist those closest to you, such as your family and friends.

[ ] Visit the FVAP's website at [www.fvap.ncr.gov](http://www.fvap.ncr.gov) often for up-to-date information and materials. Also, be sure to bookmark the Get Out the Vote website at [www.Y2Vote.org](http://www.Y2Vote.org). Visit the sites today!. ☑

**Federal Voting Assistance Program**

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**Write To:** Federal Voting Assistance Program  
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 1155 Defense Pentagon  
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**Phone:** (703) 588-1584 (703) 588-1343  
 DSN 425-1584 DSN 425-1343  
 \*\*TOLL FREE 1-800-438-VOTE (8683)\*\*



**Fax:** (703) 588-0108  
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**Note:** Copying or using VIN articles in other publications, etc. is encouraged.

## Lessons Learned From the Past...

The November 1998 Voting Information News newsletter contained an article entitled “**Lessons Learned from the 1998 Elections, A Quick Look Back.**” With the General Election right around the corner, what better way to prepare than to learn from the past. So, for the benefit of new voting officers, new voters, and citizens newly residing outside the U.S. here is a reprint of that article.

The following are a few examples of things to do and things to avoid while providing voting assistance in future elections.

Due to lengthy international mail transit time remind citizens to vote and mail the voted ballot to the state as soon as it is received. This will help to ensure that the ballots will arrive in time to meet state deadlines.

Ensure that when you are completing the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), only correct and current information is used. Note that in most cases the voting residence address (the citizen's address in their home state) must be different from the current mailing address. Many FPCA's were incorrectly filled out this year (1998) for this reason alone. Without the voting residence address, which gives a geographic location, the Local Election Official (LEO) cannot process the citizen's request and without the current mailing address, election materials cannot be mailed to the voter. It is also recommended that a contact telephone number be provided in the “Remarks” section of the FPCA in case the LEO needs to get in touch with you or a local relative. It is also important to note that the LEO needs to be informed of any current mailing address changes because official election materials may not be forwarded by the postal system.

If you are mailing election materials from overseas and do not have access to a US Embassy or an APO/FPO address, please be sure to affix the proper postage necessary to get the materials into the US Postal Service (USPS). There is no postage necessary on the FPCA or the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot in the USPS, but they need the proper postage affixed through international mail to the USPS.

Before faxing and mailing election materials, always double check that they have been signed and dated. Failure to do so may cause refusal by the Local Election Official.

When using the electronic transmission service, always mail the hard copy of the Federal Post Card Application or Ballot after it has been faxed. This is necessary because many LEO's are required to maintain a hard copy with an original signature on file. It is also recommended that a fax receipt or log is printed which will serve as a record of the date, time and type of transaction. Also, be sure to include a fax number on Item 5 of the FPCA.

The next time that an election date is rapidly approaching and you have not received your ballot after completing all of the state requirements for voting absentee; call your Voting Assistance Officer or the FVAP immediately to have the status of your ballot checked on. Do not let the state deadlines pass before you realize that you have not received your ballot. When calling the FVAP, please leave a detailed message with your complete name, country and city where you are residing along with the telephone and/or fax number. Country codes and city codes are also needed to help us return the message. If you have an e-mail address, please send your questions to [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov), due to different time zones around the world, this is proving to be one of the best avenues of communication.

Pay attention to the deadlines for registration, request and ballot receipt for your state which is listed in Chapter 3 of the Voting Assistance Guide. It is suggested, that if your state allows registration and/or ballot request in January for the entire year, that this be done. ☑

## VOTING ACTION OFFICERS

### Department of State: Office of American Citizens Services

Voting Action Officer: Mr. Ron Hawkins **tel:** (202) 647-9100 **tel FTS:** 8-647-6060, **fax:** (202) 647-6201  
**E-mail:** [HAWKINSRE@state.gov](mailto:HAWKINSRE@state.gov)

### Service Voting Action Officers

Dept. of the Army: Mr. Tom Feazell **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **tel DSN:** 221-4530, **fax:** (703) 325-4532, **fax DSN:** 221-4532  
**E-mail:** [feazellt@hoffman.army.mil](mailto:feazellt@hoffman.army.mil)

Dept. of the Navy: Mr. John Hillis **tel:** (901) 874-4369, **tel DSN:** 882-4369,  
**fax:** (901) 874-2689, **fax DSN:** 882-2689 **E-mail:** [p662b@persnet.navy.mil](mailto:p662b@persnet.navy.mil)  
**World Wide Web:** <http://www.persnet.navy.mil/nvap>

Dept. of the Air Force: TSgt Sophia Barnard **tel:** (210) 565-2563, **toll-free:** (800) 558-1404 **tel DSN:** 665-2563,  
**DSN fax:** 665-2543, **Commercial fax:** (210) 565-2543 **E-mail:** [Sophia.Barnard@afpc.randolph.af.mil](mailto:Sophia.Barnard@afpc.randolph.af.mil)  
**World Wide Web:** <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/ccprog/VOTING/VOTING.htm>

Marine Corps: Gunnery Sergeant Dennis Hellberg **tel:** (703) 784-9511 **tel DSN:** 278-9511, **fax:** (703) 784-9827,  
**fax DSN:** 278-9827 **E-mail:** [Dennis\\_J\\_Hellberg/MR/MANPOWER@manpower.usmc.mil](mailto:Dennis_J_Hellberg/MR/MANPOWER@manpower.usmc.mil)

U.S. Coast Guard: MCPO Jeff Creighton **tel:** (202) 267-1636, **fax:** (202) 267-4823  
**E-mail:** [jcreighton@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:jcreighton@comdt.uscg.mil)

All of the above can also be reached through the DoD Voting Information Center and the FVAP Website at [www.fvap.ncr.gov](http://www.fvap.ncr.gov)

Please share this copy of VIN with others.

**CALL THE FVAP TOLL-FREE  
FROM OVER 50 COUNTRIES  
(SEE LIST BELOW).  
REMEMBER, THE FVAP IS  
HERE FOR YOU WHEN  
LOCAL ASSISTANCE IS NOT  
AVAILABLE. TALK TO YOU  
SOON!**

(AFVW from page 1) Service (AFRTS) are good ways to spread the word about your voter outreach events during this week. Contact them to see if they will advertise the importance of AFVW and post daily bulletins to help promote the week's voting activities (they will probably be very willing to do this - just give them sufficient lead time)

A good way to do this is for them to run inspirational voting spots. These spots can be used in installation newspapers and on closed-circuit television and radio. One is available from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Henry Shelton has provided an inspirational voting spot which is wonderful in helping to advertise voting. The 2000 Get Out the Vote Campaign Public Service Announcements can also be used. ☒

ANTIGUA	1-877-8333886	HUNGARY	06-800-13824	SOUTH AFRICA	080-09-97300
AUSTRALIA	1-800-1-27668	INDONESIA	001-803-011-2583	SPAIN	900-931912
BAHAMAS	1-8778333886	IRELAND	1-800-55-5189	ST VINCENT	1-877-8333886
BAHRAIN	800-687	ISRAEL	1-800-9203230	ST. KITTS/NEVIS	1-877833-3886
BARBADOS	1-800-534-2104	ITALY	800-874729	SWEDEN	020-79-6876
BELGIUM	0800-76834	JAMAICA	1-800-666-3819	SWITZERLAND	0800-895623
BERMUDA	1-8778333886	JAPAN	00531-120076	TAIWAN	0080-13-9817
BRAZIL	000-814-550-3742	KOREA	00798-14-800-4399	THAILAND	001-800-12-066-3305
CANADA	1-800-438-8683	LUXEMBOURG	0800-9087	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	1-800-934-7340
CAYMAN ISLANDS	1-877-833-3886	MALAYSIA	1-800-80-3709	TURKEY	00800-151-0733
CHILE	800-201844	MARSHALL ISLANDS	1-877833-3886	UNITED KINGDOM	08-001-698035
CHINA	10-800-120-0241	MEXICO	001-8778333886	UNITED STATES	1-800-438-8683
COLUMBIA	980-915-4710	NETH ANTILLES	001-8778333886	URUGUAY	000-413-598-2492
COSTA RICA	0800-0120204	NETHERLANDS	0800-0249769	VENEZUELA	8001-2913
DENMARK	80-882544	NEW ZEALAND	0800-441388		
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1-8001561554	NICARAGUA	001-800-2201349		
FINLAND	0-800-1-19515	NORWAY	800-15501		
FRANCE	0800-914727	PANAMA	001-800-5071351		
GERMANY	0800-1007428	PHILIPPINES	1-800-1-114-0831		
GREECE	00800-12-5268	POLAND	0-0-800-1112-561		
GUYANA	1-800-877-8333886	PORTUGAL	08008-12816		
HONG KONG	800-908809	RUSSIA	8-10-8002-0283011		
		SINGAPORE	800-1203425		

**PLEASE NOTE:** The United States (including it's territories) and Canada share one Toll-Free Number:  
**1-800-438-8683.**

Federal Voting Assistance Program  
Department of Defense  
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Washington, DC 20301-1155



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